

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed November 13, 2009, and the Advisory Action mailed February 24, 2010, have been received and their contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to March 13, 2010. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 18, 2004; October 24, 2007; April 22, 2008; and October 24, 2008.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 2, 2010, the Advisory Action asserts that "[the] information disclosure statement filed 02/02/2010 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97(d) because it lacks a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e)" and that "the information referred to therein has not been considered" (Paper No. 20100222, page 2). The Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the assertions in the Official Action. The Information Disclosure Statement does so include a statement of certification, which specifies verbatim the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). Therefore, the Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion of the Advisory Action. **The Applicant again requests full consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 2, 2010.** To the extent that such consideration is not provided, the Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the Examiner's specific reasons for disregarding the Applicant's statement of certification.

Claims 1-37 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of the allowability of claims 32-37 (Paper No. 20100222, page 5). Claims 32-37 have been canceled and claims 1, 7, 11 and 23-25 have been amended to incorporate allowable features as stated in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section of the Advisory Action (Id.).

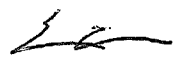
Paragraph 4 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 23-31 as obvious based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,774,877 to Nishitoba and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0047825 to Yamazaki.

In response and in accordance with the statement of allowed subject matter (Paper No. 20100222, page 5), independent claims 1, 7, 11 and 23-25 have been amended to include the allowable features of claims 32-37, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1, 7, 11 and 23-25, as amended, recite allowable subject matter, and the above-referenced rejections are believed to be moot. Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 15-22/2-5 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15-22/1 and 23-32 are currently elected, of which claims 1, 7, 11 and 23-25 are independent, and all of which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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